

BERKS & BUCKS VACCINE
INSTITUTION

Vaccine papers ... 1815

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VACCINE PAPERS,

PUBLISHED UNDER THE SANCTION

OF THE

Berks and Bucks Vaccine Institution;

BEING AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

RISE, PROGRESS AND ACTUAL STATE

OF

VACCINATION.

No. 1.



MAIDENHEAD:

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1815.



TO THE
COMMITTEE OF THE BERKS AND BUCKS,
Vaccine Institution,

THIS PAPER,

PREPARED AT THEIR DESIRE,

IS

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

By their obedient Servant,

R. Goolden, F. L. S.

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, &c.

MAIDENHEAD,
16 JULY, 1815.

Vaccine Papers.

IT is not the design of the present Publication to treat of the subject of Vaccination further than may be necessary to inform the plainest understanding of its origin, progress, and utility to the preservation and well-being of the human Species. For these purposes the most eminent opinions are here collected, and they are supported and exemplified by facts taken from this neighbourhood, so that those who read these statements may ascertain the accuracy of them by their own inquiries.

Having the medical care of an extensive district the author feels it a duty to avail himself of the present opportunity, while the attention of the neighbourhood is alive to the subject of Vaccination, to prepare for circulation, in the cheapest form and in the simplest language (divested of all technical words) the following pages, which he hopes will prove successful towards fully establishing a practice, considered by the best informed and most enlightened phi-

lanthropists as one of the greatest blessings of the age.

SECTION I.

In our dairy Counties a particular kind of eruption has been known to affect the teats and udders of milch Cows time out of mind, which eruption was occasionally communicated to the hands of persons employed in dairy farms, causing painful sores on the wrists and fingers, pain along the arms, and swelling in the arm-pits, and sometimes a degree of fever which required the patient to keep his bed.—It has been long known in the County of Gloucester that persons so affected, and who never had the small pox, were rendered incapable of receiving that disease, and it was considered fully as effective as the inoculated small pox in preventing subsequent attacks of that disorder.—Our distinguished countryman, Dr. JENNER, became acquainted with these facts while engaged in the practice of physic at Berkeley in Gloucestershire. A suggestion arose in his mind that inoculating with this mild antidote to small pox might be equally successful. This he tried with perfect success, and having communicated the result of his practice to the public, many other practitioners of eminence (and indeed individuals not of the profession) directed their attention to so extraordinary a discovery, and having ascertained the correctness of the doctor's relation con-

firmed it in print. In the year 1798, corroborating testimonies were published, and the practice gaining ground, in the year following Dr. JENNER'S work was translated into the Latin, German and French Languages, and the important discovery was soon acted upon throughout the Continent of Europe.—In the month of July, of the same year, Dr. WOODVILLE went over from this country to Paris to assist in promoting vaccine inoculation, at the request of the French government, although at that time the two countries were at war, and in a short space of time six hundred children were subjected to the experiment with the most satisfactory result.—The French Physician who writes the report exclaims, “does
 “not this preservative seem by its beneficent quality to be a kind of prodigy, when we consider
 “the trouble it occasions is nothing more than the
 “puncture which one makes for the purpose of inoculating, and that it is exempt from the slightest
 “accident?” About the same period matter was sent to America, and given extensively to the Whites and Indians. It is said that the Canadian Indians came down the country in thousands to avail themselves of this blessing; and that whole tribes were thus rescued from the ravages of the small pox.

To detail the progress of Vaccination at home would far exceed the limits of this publication. It will be sufficient to state the

result, as producing in London a declaration signed by the very respectable names of BAILLIE, HALFORD, DENMAN, ASTLEY COOPER, CLINE, ABERNETHY, and thirty-two other practitioners of eminence, stating that *they felt it their duty to declare their opinion that those persons who had had the cow pox were safe from the infection of the small pox.* A similar declaration was published, signed by twenty-two medical practitioners in the town of Leeds, which was followed by others in the cities of Durham, Chester, &c. About this time, (the latter end of the year 1800) the author witnessed an experiment in the house of industry at Worcester, calculated to carry with it absolute conviction.—Mr. JAMES FIELD, then surgeon to that institution, inoculated seventeen children who all of them experienced the disease in its mildest but perfect form, corresponding with Dr. JENNER's description of it. In the spring following a natural small pox occurred in the city and soon penetrated the institution, when all the children then in the house, including about two thirds of those previously vaccinated, were inoculated with small pox. Those that had undergone Vaccination were made to sleep with others having the small pox upon them, and were also exposed by inoculation and all possible means to the disease; which nevertheless they *every one escaped.*—This circumstance did not fail to have its effect with the medical practitioners, and with

the people at large; and Vaccination from that time became general in the city and neighbourhood.

The practice of inoculating with the cow pox at length became so satisfactory in its results, that the Lords of the Admiralty, at the suggestion of Dr. TROTTER, caused it to be generally introduced throughout the fleet, where, upon a moderate calculation, it was estimated that ten thousand persons were employed who were not conscious of ever having had the small pox. The result was equal to the most sanguine expectations, and the surgeons of the navy with Dr. TROTTER at their head, impelled by those benevolent feelings which do honor to human nature, presented Dr. JENNER with a gold medal, declaring that they could not remain passive spectators of an event so singular in the history of animated nature;—an event which the philosopher must contemplate with wonder, and the friend of his species view with exultation.

These feelings were not peculiar to the profession. In the spring following (1802) Dr. JENNER's claims on the public were recognized by parliament; and by an unanimous vote of the legislature the sum of £10,000 was granted to him as an acknowledgement of the benefit derived to the public by his discovery. Very shortly afterwards the Empress dowager of Russia wrote the Doctor a letter accompanied by a valuable

present, and expressed her sentiments of esteem and regard. She stated that she had introduced Vaccination into the charitable establishments under her direction.—

In tropical climates when the small pox prevails, its ravages are beyond any conception which can be formed by the natives of more temperate regions. In our East Indian settlements it became an object of the first importance to remedy an evil more fatal to the natives than the plague or yellow fever was ever found to be among Europeans or Americans. On the fourteenth of June, 1802, Dr. SCOTT first inoculated a healthy child of three years old, from whom sprung the matter that so soon pervaded the whole of India, and the number inoculated the first year exceeded eleven thousand. Dr. CHRISTIE's account of the ravages committed in Ceylon previous to the introduction of Vaccination is calculated to impress the mind with a just horror of the disease.—“When the small pox
“broke out in parts of that island, such was the
“panic occasioned among the inhabitants that all
“those in health immediately deserted their
“houses, and left the helpless sick without any
“assistance. In this deserted state the elephants,
“panthers, and wild hogs come down from the
“jungles, broke down the fences, destroyed and
“rooted up the trees, eat all their stores of rice,
“consumed the dead bodies of the deceased, and,”

“ what is still more horrible to relate, carried off
 “ some of the sick.—This is but an imperfect
 picture of the misery the wretched inhabitants of
 Ceylon annually sustained from the small pox.
 Under such circumstances the introduction of the
 cow pox must have proved an incalculable blessing;
 and it was received as such in the year 1802.
 Our late reports state that in that island alone
 (forming but a small part of our possessions in
 the East) upwards of twenty-five thousand individuals
 have been vaccinated in one year.

BUT to come home to our own neighbourhood;
 from the year 1803 Vaccination has been practiced
 here with great success. In some few instances indeed
 where it has failed, it is due to the public that the
 result of the inquiries occasioned by such failures
 should be satisfactorily communicated, in order, as
 much as possible, to remove ill-grounded prejudices.
 The writer of these pages will therefore in its proper
 place communicate facts connected with such cases,
 which when known will operate in favor of the cow
 pox inoculation, instead of discouraging it. About
 this period (1803,) Vaccination was very generally
 practiced in Great Britain; but the Vaccinators
 were not all equally informed or attentive to the
 progress of the disease, and many cases supposed
 to have gone through the regular stages were
 wanting in its essential requisites. Nor should
 this excite surprise when it is considered

that many persons undertook to inoculate who could have no pretensions to a knowledge of the practice. Dr. JENNER (in a letter written to Dr. WOODVILLE in the year 1798,) says, “after
 “ matter has lost its limpid (or watery) quality, and
 “ become pus (or thick matter), its specific effects
 “ cease, and my grand fear is that the discovery
 “ may fall into discredit from a want of that at-
 “ tention in conducting the experiment which
 “ the subject requires.” Unfortunately the Doctor’s fears were too well founded, and a few failures, resulting from inattention and ignorance, furnish those who are prejudiced against Vaccination with arguments to which they fondly cling, and which they use with an earnestness that would well suit a better cause. So manifest a blessing, however, is not to be rejected on such slight grounds;—it was received with caution—it is approved by experience—and both scientific persons and the community generally have witnessed the good resulting from it. So strong was the evidence in favor of the practice that in the year 1806 Parliament directed the College of Physicians to turn their attention to the subject and communicate the result of their inquiries to the public; for this purpose they addressed themselves to the different Medical and Surgical Colleges of London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, who gathered from their individual members the result of their practice, and made their reports

drawn from such documents to the London College. Thus was furnished a mass of evidence communicated with the greatest readiness and candor, which enabled the College of Physicians to speak with confidence upon all the principal points referred to them. In giving their observations and opinions, they state that nothing is advanced but what is supported by the multiplied and unequivocal evidence brought before them, and that they have not considered any facts as proved but what have been stated from actual observation, and in the spring following they framed their report.* It is true that subsequent to this favorable report of the Royal College of Physicians much attention was excited by the publication of the Case of the Hon. R. Grosvenor, and a son of Sir Henry Martin who were both attacked with the small pox after Vaccination; the former (the son of the Earl of Grosvenor) was vaccinated by Dr. JENNER himself. These facts excited much anxiety in the minds of those who having relied on the favorable reports of their medical attendants had submitted themselves or their families to Vaccination. The National Vaccine Board therefore published a detailed account of these two cases, stating that they had foreseen and distinctly pointed out the *possibility* of small pox occurring after Vaccination; but that still the security derived from it was as perfect as could be expected from

* This Report will form the next part of this Publication.

any human discovery.—That the peculiarities of certain constitutions with respect to eruptive fevers form a curious subject of medical history ; many having resisted small pox for years and afterwards taken it ; and some have been twice afflicted with small pox. This is proved by three well attested cases of small pox having occurred after small pox inoculation, and one case of natural small pox twice in the same person. These cases occurred in the very month of June following the two before mentioned of the failure of Vaccination. It is therefore *possible* for the person who has been Vaccinated to take the small pox afterwards, as it is also *possible* for the person who has had the small pox, either natural or inoculated, to take the small pox again ; but that the cases are very rare, the surprise they excite, when they do occur, sufficiently proves. So rare indeed they are, as to form no exception (upon which any reasonable person would act) to this *general* truth, “ that Vaccination is a security against small pox, and is itself not *infectious*, nor attended with *danger* as is the small pox.”* The knowledge

* Two of the most singular cases upon this head have recently been noticed through the medium of a very respectable Medical Journal (communicated by Mr. RING of New Street, Hanover Square). strikingly illustrative of that peculiarity of constitution which, in defiance of the customary operation of small pox contagion, leaves the patient subject to future attacks of that disorder ; and these both in the same family, daughters of Dr. STEWART, a Physician at Plymouth.

Miss STEWART had been inoculated for the small pox, the disease exhibited itself, and she had a considerable eruption.—A few

of this truth is now universally extended; but, strange to say, Vaccination is more generally practiced in every other country than in this where it was first discovered. In France it was propagated with great zeal, and all the energies of government were called forth in support of the practice. In Russia, it is calculated by Dr. CRIGHTON (the Emperor's physician), that upwards of one hundred thousand lives have been saved since the year 1804. In India upwards of eight hundred thousand individuals have been vaccinated in one year. In the Islands of Ceylon and Bourbon it has been received with no less avidity, and been practiced with an effect no less beneficial. From the United States of America the testimonies in favor of Vaccination and the expressions of grateful admiration at the discovery are ardent and unequivocal. In the British settlements, and amongst the Indians parti-

years afterwards she was inoculated with other children, and had a repetition of the small pox with violent symptoms.---Subsequent to this, Dr. S. vaccinated his youngest daughter, and was himself satisfied that the disease had gone through its regular stages, as was Dr., now Sir WILLIAM, KNIGHTON, who took matter from her arm, and inserted it in one of his own patients, which produced the disease in a satisfactory manner.---Two years afterwards she was inoculated with small pox, which she took, and the disease ran through its stages with more than usual rapidity, though its effects are spoken of as inconsiderable. Ten years afterwards this young lady was attacked with natural small pox, which was clearly traced to the children of her female servant who at that time labored under the disease. The eruptive fever was severe; she had a plentiful crop; and on the eleventh day the disease turned; accompanied with fever and delirium. She was seen by many medical men of eminence, none of whom entertained a doubt of the disorder being the small pox.

cularly, the advantages are incalculable; and the reports are no less gratifying from the Cape of Good Hope, Malta, our West Indian settlements, and Spanish America. Even the empires of China, and Persia, acknowledge with gratitude the debt they owe to Britain.

The advantages then of Vaccination are so positive and so easily ascertained,—the saving of misery to the families of the poor, and of expense to parishes, are results so invariably consequent upon its introduction;—that little doubt can exist that it will in time work its own way. The union of intelligent practitioners, however, with the clergy and with gentlemen of rank and influence in the country, in pressing home these advantages on the attention of Parish Officers and the poorer classes generally, will considerably facilitate and expedite this desirable object. The author is happy therefore to observe the zeal and cordiality with which such an union has been entered into in his own immediate neighbourhood. A chain of such provincial establishments carried through the Kingdom would be of the greatest possible benefit to the community, as well by the opportunities they would afford of constant mutual communication of interesting facts, as by their tending ultimately to effectuate the absolute eradication of the small pox, with or without, as the case might be, the aid in due time and season of legislative interference.

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